

THE ANTIQUARY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1872.

RECENT DISCOVERIES IN CORNISH BARROWS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the rich field that Cornwall presents to the archaeological explorer, and the number of cromlechs and stone circles within its confines, besides other traces of its pre-historic inhabitants, until recently no one had undertaken to examine its ancient gravemounds with that keen scientific and vigilant eye that is necessary for the proper pursuit of such undertakings. In other parts of England much has been done by certain indefatigable antiquaries, who have spent both time, labour, and money in prosecuting their self-imposed tasks. In this way the names of Hoare and Thurnam in Wiltshire, Bateman in Derbyshire, Warne in Dorset, and Greenwell in Yorkshire and Northumberland, will long be associated with the primeval antiquities of their respective counties. But in Cornwall, comparatively few barrows have been opened with the requisite care and judgment, the discoveries in that section of Cornish archaeology having been made, in nine cases out of ten, by mere accident, sometimes in the course of ordinary agricultural pursuits, and sometimes when waste land has been enclosed, where the virgin soil had never before been thoroughly disturbed. During the last few years, however, Mr. W. C. Borlase, F.S.A., of Castle Horneck, near Penzance, inheriting some of the tastes of his worthy ancestor—Dr. Borlase, of antiquarian fame—has been systematically investigating the contents of Cornish tumuli with his wonted zeal in archaeological matters, and his labours have been generally crowned with the success which they deserve.

Of the gravemounds recently selected by Mr. Borlase as being most likely to repay the trouble of exploring, some of those in the district around St. Columb would seem to have furnished very interesting results. A barrow opened by him on Denzell Downs, north of that town, some eight or ten months since, contained a fine urn, in shape said to be unique, and full of an unctuous black substance. Thus rewarded, Mr. Borlase has, within the last few weeks, recommenced his explorations by examining the interiors of two barrows near Trevelgy Head, on the north coast of Cornwall, a short distance east of Newquay, and likewise in the neighbourhood of St. Columb. As on other promontories along the coast, there is here at Trevelgy an example of a Cornish cliff-castle in good preservation. The head itself is insulated at high water, and the chasm thus formed constitutes, as it were, a natural moat protecting it towards the land. On each side of the opening is a lofty vallum and ditch, and at some distance within the first, another vallum extends across "the island." The spot was evidently a resort of the early inhabitants, who, no doubt, as occasion required, fortified themselves within their seemingly impregnable stronghold. Many barrows lie about the place, the two now opened, on the property of Lord Churston, bearing the distinctive name of "Trevelgy Barrows."

Permission having been obtained to fully examine these tumuli, "several gentlemen interested in matters antiquarian accepted Mr. Borlase's invitation to form part of the exploring party—amongst them, Mr. Spence Bate, F.R.S., Captain Oliver, R.A., Mr. Evans, and the Rev. W. Iago, county secretary of the Society of Antiquaries—and the Red Lion Hotel, St. Columb, the host whereof, Mr. Polkinghorne, takes quite a lively interest in such matters, was selected as the headquarters. Four labourers, under the leadership of one who had done good work for Mr. Borlase on other occasions, were engaged to carry out the excavations.

"Upon arriving at the scene of action early in the morning, the party found that the two barrows were connected by a low bank of earth next the sea, and that there were traces of other earthworks still farther seaward, although the cliff has so wasted in the course of centuries that the barrows are now nearly upon its verge.* Operations were commenced upon the more easterly of the two, which is also the largest, by cutting a trench to the centre from the southward; but very little had been done before the rain and wind, which had been threatening all the morning, began to make themselves most unpleasantly felt; and a shift was made to the western barrow as the more accessible of the two, which was then attacked from the north, the most sheltered side. However, even with the barrow to windward, the weather was found too unpleasant to admit of continued labour, and the work for a time was dropped. Had such an event happened in the last century the chances are that somebody would have fancied the old chieftain over whom the tumulus was reared had raised a storm to protest against the violation—heedless of the interests of science—of his grave. However, after a while the sky cleared sufficiently to enable operations to be resumed; and thereafter they were not suspended, in spite of occasional showers for the remainder of the day.

"The barrow opened was about ten feet in height, and seventy feet in diameter. Around the outer edge the lower part was chiefly composed of slate *débris*, evidently from the rock on which it stood, but the trench was opened at a little distance above the bottom in the ordinary earth of the country. Two of the men drove the trench forward from below, whilst two sunk on the centre of the mound; and when the latter had reached a depth of two feet, traces of red earth began to appear. Great care was therefore exercised in digging, and a sharp look-out kept for any evidences of interment. The quantity of red earth increased, until it was clear that it occupied the whole centre of the barrow, but nothing else appeared, and the work proceeded without any event worth chronicling, until the men below, who were driving forward, came also to the red earth. It soon became pretty certain that this earth formed what might be termed an interior mound. At first no doubt was entertained that it had been subjected to the action of fire, but as its extent became revealed this seemed doubtful. It was known that there was no natural earth at all approaching it in colour within forty or fifty miles, but still it seemed rather a bold inference to draw that the

* Having a connecting bank between them, these barrows would seem to be of the type known as "twin-barrows," though in the present case the actual mounds are not adjacent, but some thirty yards apart.

funereal obsequies of the person interred had been celebrated by so great and so long-continued a fire, as would account for the incineration of such an immense quantity of earth, probably very considerably exceeding a hundred cartloads. A few pieces of charcoal were found, but yet the conclusion appeared doubtful, and it was feared that if the earth had been burnt, the tumulus must have been the scene of repeated cremations for interment elsewhere, rather than of one burial. By the time night brought the work to a close, the trench had reached the centre of the barrow, and the natural soil below the depth of red earth had been gained, at a depth of over ten feet, without any discovery having been made.

"On the second day operations were resumed, and the area of excavation in the centre of the barrow widened. Still no result. Finally, as a last resort, as the red earth dipped towards the E.N.E. end of the barrow, Mr. Borlase had it followed; and the labours of the explorers were then rewarded most amply. The origin of the red earth was unequivocally proved by the discovery of a cairn of stones, burnt and blackened as if the fire had only just left them. It was then felt that the end was nearly reached. The stones were speedily removed, and in their centre was found an immense flat block of quartz stone, not natural to that part of the country. The investigation of what lay beneath formed the work of the third day. The top stone, which was 10 feet 6 inches long, 5 feet 6 inches wide, and 1 foot 10 inches thick, and therefore over 7 tons in weight, was found to cover a perfectly formed cell, carefully protected, with two side stones and two end ones, and built in a pit which had been sunk in the ground to receive it, so that the cover was level with the surface. The chamber was 6 feet 2 inches long, 2 feet 6 inches wide, and 2 feet 9 inches in depth. It contained only unburnt pieces of skull, very thick, covered by thin slates, but no ashes." *

A few days subsequently the other barrow, which had been left on account of the rain, was opened, and at the depth of 13 feet was brought to light a stone chamber or cist, covered by a huge slab of slate, deeply imbedded in the earth forming the barrow. In this chamber, which is rather smaller than that in the western tumulus, was a contracted human skeleton, bent at the knees and the hips, while a stone hatchet lay close to the knee. This is indeed, for many reasons, the most interesting and productive barrow of the two.

Mr. Llewellynn Jowitt, in his work on "Gravemounds, and their Contents," observes that in interments of the so-called Celtic period, "when the body has been buried in a contracted position, it is found lying on its side; the left side being the most usual. The head generally inclines a little forward; the knees are drawn up near the chest, and the heels to the thighs: the elbows are brought near to the knees—frequently, indeed, one of them will be found beneath, and the other on, the knees, which have thus been held between them; and the hands are frequently brought up to the front of the face."

In the case of the larger of the two Trevelgy barrows, I am not in a position to say whether *all* these characteristics of an early interment were apparent, but from the fact that the skeleton was found lying in a contracted pos-

ture, with its legs bent at the knees and also at the hips, it is evident that *some* of those conditions were fulfilled. A stone implement was also in the cist, so that this interment may be ascribed, I think, to that period when inhumation was exclusively practised, prior to the age when cremation was generally adopted. And the most ancient of British barrows are considered to be those that have contained the corpse buried in this crouching manner with its limbs drawn up. Sir John Lubbock, in fact, refers such interments to the Neolithic Stone Age. ("Pre-Historic Times," 2nd ed., p. 148.) Hence we see the great antiquity of one at least of the Trevelgy barrows, and it is probable that the other is also of the same age, for although no perfect skeleton was found therein, there were no signs of cremation in the cist, and pieces of *unburnt* skull were scattered about.

During the progress of the excavations, some of the party visited the cliff castle on Trevelgy Head, and special interest was shown in examining the remains of an ancient kitchen-midden, near the second earthwork within "the island," and discovered by Mr. Nicholls, the tenant of Trevelgy, in 1864. A great quantity of mussel and limpet shells has been found here, as well as several bones, some of which are said by Professor Owen to be those of the *bos longifrons*, probably thrown on this refuse-heap by some former inhabitants of the fort. Flint-flakes have also been picked up.

In the neighbourhood of Newquay many other traces of an archaic people have been discovered from time to time, including some fine specimens of pottery and a bronze fibula; and a tin stream at Treloy, near Trevelgy, has produced some interesting Roman remains. All these facts tend to show that this district has been in occupation by some of the scattered tribes of the Cornish aborigines. The recent discoveries have, moreover, awakened quite a fresh interest in the locality and its antiquities.

April 3, 1872.

E. H. W. DUNKIN.

THE GOLD COUNTRY OF OPHIR, AND SOLOMON'S VOYAGES.

(Continued from p. 66.)

A COLLATION of the very interesting passages that occur in Scripture, alluding to the mercantile enterprises of King Solomon, shows the following results:—

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. 1 Kings v. 6, 8, 10 | } paralleled in 2 Chron. ii. 8 (v. 7, in Heb.) | |
| v. 20, 22, 24, in Heb.) | | |
| 2. 1 Kings ix. 26-28. | | 2 Chron. viii. 17, 18. |
| 3. 1 Kings x. 11, 12. | " | 2 Chron. ix. 10, 11. |
| 4. 1 Kings x. 22. | " | 2 Chron. ix. 21. |
| 5. 1 Kings xxii. 48. | " | 2 Chron. xx. 36, 37. |

(49 in Heb.)

1 Narrates the treaty between Solomon and Hiram for the supply of timber to Jerusalem. The former having applied for cedar, obtained cedar and fir, according to Kings; to which the chronicler adds algum or almug, a wood not fully identified.

2 Narrates Solomon's commerce with Ophir *via* the Red Sea. He is alleged to have constructed a fleet at Ezion-gebir, near Elath, at the head of the Eilat Gulf. The ships were manned by Phœnician sailors, with the concurrence of his ally Hiram.

3 Defines the more important articles thus imported from Ophir, such as gold, very large algum or almug trees, and precious stones.

4 Contains a fuller recapitulation of the above. The pas-

* Western Morning News, March 11, 1872.

sage from Kings describes the vessels as ships of Tarshish, freighted with gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. The voyages lasted for three years, and there is no reference to Ophir, but the chronicler adds that ships went to Tarshish.

5 Narrates the abortive attempts made by Jehoshaphat to imitate Solomon's enterprise. According to Kings, he made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold; but, perhaps, from the want of skilled seamen, such as the prescience of Solomon had obtained from Phœnicia, the expedition miscarried. The chronicler states that the ships were to go to Tarshish from Ezion-gebir.

We have this difficulty in the matter, that Ophir and Tarshish, in any acceptance of the terms, were so very widely apart as to present an apparent inconsistency. To meet this point, some have determined to reject the chronicler altogether, and so confine the voyages to Ophir; others, as the Rev. Professor Rawlinson, suggest two different expeditions, viz., a fleet to Ophir sailing south-east, and a fleet to Tarshish sailing westerly.

Josephus, writing eighteen hundred years ago, placed Ophir at the *Aurea Chersonesus*, now called Malacca. Most undoubtedly much of the precious metals that reached Phœnicia came by caravan from old emporia of commerce, situate in the Persian Gulf, at the mouths of the Euphrates and Tigris; but it was not mined there; it must have been obtained from a distance, and Josephus tells us what was the tradition of his day on the subject.

Now, of all countries in the world, Barmah, situate to the north of Malacca, exhibits the most profuse use of gold ever known to mankind. Barmah was anciently called Ava: this word may be the source of the name of Ophir as found in Arabia, and perhaps transmitted with the precious metal, just as we now have an Ophir in California; but there actually is a Mount Ophir in Malacca; and it is alleged that "ophir" is the native term for a gold mine there, to this day.

Much contention has arisen as to the almug or algum tree; the general inference is that it was sandal-wood, but sandal wood, the true *santalum album*, is not a building wood; it is a fragrant wood, being pulverized and burned for incense. I do not see anything in this application to merit the Hebrew's wonder at the gigantic size of these algum or almug trees, and their use as struts or supports, some say steps for the Temple. It has been alleged that the famous gates of Somnauth were built of sandal-wood, but the recent application of the microscope has dispelled this illusion.

We find from the first series of parallels that Solomon, having obtained cedar and fir from Lebanon, would have liked to obtain oak, to complete his assortment of timber; but the oaks were exhausted from Lebanon. An oak is called *allon* in the Hebrew; this seems a near approach to almug or algum, and I suggest that the *great* trees which thus astonished the natives, were teak, *tectona grandis*, to be obtained principally from Barmah. Teak is a wood that has always been classed with oak, being equally durable, much larger, and, above all, impervious to the parasites that infest softer woods.

Shipping, once fairly out of the Red Sea, would have a clear passage for Malacca; it is only a question of time and enterprise.

Every view of the matter that we can take must place Tarshish in the region of the Mediterranean. We have: 1. Tarsus in Cilicia. 2. The assumed identification with Carthage, in North Africa. 3. An identification of Tarshish with the fabulous Tartessus of Spain. All these would lead in a totally different direction from Ophir, which, whether situate in Africa, Arabia, or the East Indies, could always be reached from the Red Sea; but Tarshish could not be reached from Ezion-gebir, without circumnavigating Africa. Was Solomon equal to this?

March 25, 1872.

A. H.

(To be concluded in our next.)

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF ROMAN REMAINS NEAR MILTON-NEXT-SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1867, Mr. C. Roach Smith gave an account of the interesting and important discovery of two Roman leaden coffins near Milton; and in February, 1869, he reports that a third had been found, which was secured by the late Mr. A. Jordan, the owner of the field, and subsequently presented by that gentleman to the Maidstone Museum.

The spot where these remains were found is a field known as Bex Hill, situate to the east of the town of Milton, and but a few yards from the edge of the creek; the south-eastern and more elevated part of the field is the site of these interments. The coffin discovered in 1869 measured 6 feet 5 inches in length, and 2 feet 10 inches wide, and was formed of a large sheet of thick metal, folded up to form the sides, with separate pieces for the head and foot welded on, the cover lapping slightly over. It was ornamented with a beaded pattern, which ran along the borders and enclosed compartments along the sides, and at the head and foot of the same design, arranged crosswise, with a medallion in each quarter of the cross. Outside the head of this coffin a perfect pale green glass bottle-shaped vessel was found, the neck being 2 inches long and 1 inch in diameter, supported by two handles resting at right angles on the body of the vessel, which is 6½ inches long and 4 inches in diameter. On the bottom the letters IBONI can be plainly distinguished.

Since the discovery of the three coffins already mentioned, a fourth was exhumed on the 21st November last. This coffin is 5 feet in length and 1 foot 6 inches wide, and was entire until the work of excavation commenced, when the body of it fell to pieces, leaving the cover only, tolerably whole, which fortunately was the only part ornamented. The ornamentation is of great beauty, and in excellent preservation. A beaded pattern runs along the sides of the lid, enclosing several compartments, divided by a moulding of the same design. In the first compartment, beginning from the left, are two lions facing, with a vase between them; next, a compartment divided into three, the centre division containing a well-executed medallion, and in the upper and lower divisions a cross of bead moulding. Then comes a compartment containing two lions rampant, facing, with a vase between them, and a raised pattern resembling a long spear, under their feet. Next are three divisions, ornamented as in the divisions previously described, followed by the centre of the lid, which is too much decayed to enable me to form any accurate design, but here and there a portion of a lion or medallion appear, with bead moulding. The right end of the lid is ornamented precisely the same as the left. The lead of this coffin is much thinner than the one discovered in 1869, and not so good in quality. At the head of it an unusually rare type of Roman glass was got out quite perfect. It is of a darkish green colour, 8½ inches high, with a slender neck 4½ inches long, and ¾ of an inch wide, contracted at the waist, and widening to a diameter of 4½ inches; the bottom is pressed up to within 1½ inches of the neck, the handle is attached to the top of the neck, sloping downwards to the body of the vessel, and terminating in a fluted pattern, 1½ inches from the bottom. The front is ornamented with a medallion 4½ inches in circumference, and projecting half an inch from the vessel, representing the face of a female, the head being covered with a kind of turban.

About twenty yards west from the coffin a number of small urns and vase-shaped specimens were found, mostly of the Upchurch type, and patera of black pottery; and about

two yards from two skeletons, a female's bronze finger-ring was also dug up.

Brickmaking is to be carried on at Bex Hill next season, when the hill itself will be entirely excavated, and no doubt other discoveries will be made.

Sittingbourne, Kent.

GEORGE PAYNE, JUN.

DISCOVERY OF ANGLO-SAXON REMAINS NEAR WITNEY IN OXFORDSHIRE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Church Times* communicates to that paper the following account of an interesting discovery just made in a field between Witney and Burford:—

There is a strange interest attaching to the discoveries, made from time to time, of the remains of our remote and savage ancestors, often by the agency of the investigating plough, as it "scores the back of mother earth from year to year." The stern men lying under their cairns and barrows on some windy hill-top, each with his spear by his side and his shield on his lap, are ancestors of whom the modern Englishman may be proud; for they drove the Imperial Roman beyond the seas, and maintained their hold on England by the only plea which nations recognize in action—the plea of the strong right hand.

The worst of it is that the modern rustic is considerably the inferior of the heathen Anglo-Saxon in intelligence; and when any remains of interest are turned up by the plough he is as likely as not to break them up in pure wantonness, unless he discovers that some of them are of precious metal, which may be converted into beer at the neighbouring public. Then Hodge will condescend to put them into his pocket, but will say nothing about them. Many things are thus lost or destroyed which are not only of interest in themselves but which tend to throw light on the early history of the land, the social and domestic life of its earliest inhabitants, &c.

We were, therefore, on the alert when a message was sent to us by a farmer of the neighbourhood that a skeleton had been found by his men, while reducing the surface of the ground, in order to obtain materials for filling up a hollow in a field by the side of the road leading from Witney to Burford, in Oxfordshire, about four miles from the former town. We were too late to save the first interment. It had been broken up, and the remains scattered to the winds and rain, the only reminiscence being that of a skeleton lying in a grave built up with stones at the sides, but not covered in with a stone at the top. In the case of the second interment the farmer was just in time to save the relics, but we did not see them *in situ* ourselves. The skeleton was that of a Saxon warrior. He lay with his long-bladed spear by his side and the boss of his great wooden shield at his feet. This boss was of iron, and so large that the farmer at first thought it was a helmet. The third interment we were in time for.

The site chosen for these burials was a breezy promontory overlooking the valley of the Windrush, which winds along at the base of the hill, through apple orchards and water mills, past the pretty church of Minster Lovell and its ruins, redolent with the memory of the misletoe-bough and other mediæval tragedies connected with the family of "Lovell the Dog." On the other side of the valley, about a mile off northward, runs the Roman road—the "Akeman-street"—in a straight line through Wychwood Forest, leaving on the left a large barrow, at Leafield, visible on the horizon, crowned with trees. On the hill side, about a mile from the interments we were to examine, some valuable gold ornaments of much intrinsic value were disinterred many years ago, but I do not know what has become of them. About a mile further on towards Burford a beautiful mediæval seal was ploughed up some time since, bearing a figure of the Virgin, crowned, and Child, under a canopy, with a monk kneeling at her feet, and the inscription "*Virgo Mater Dei miserere me.*"

A quarter of a mile westwards, upon the other side of the Burford road, rises a very large barrow called Asthall barrow (probably Celtic), covered with fir trees. Some friends in the neighbourhood wish the farmer to cut down the trees and open the barrow, but the latter does not, up to the present time, quite see it. The plough has turned up many old chains at the foot of this barrow. They were used in the last century for suspending the bodies of highwaymen after execution.

On arriving at the spot where the digging was going on, we found that the labourers had just discovered a third interment. One end of the skull was visible about six inches beneath the surface of the ground. A small earthenware urn had stood at the head of the body; but this was broken in pieces by the pick-axe, before the workmen knew what they were coming upon. We now went to work with great care, removing the soil gently, and closely examining it as it left the spade; gradually working along from the head to the feet of the skeleton. The first thing we came upon were the glass beads of a handsome necklace. This was the first indication that the body was that of a lady. The largest bead was about the size of a crab apple, and was made of thick blue glass, serrated. The others were much smaller, the least being no larger than a pea. Near them lay a bronze toothpick and ear-cleaner, attached to a bronze ring through their handle end. They were about four inches long.

The figure lay on her left side, with her face towards the west, and bent down upon the bosom, the knees bowed. She was a young woman of about the middle height, and not more than twenty-seven years of age, judging from her teeth. Her arms were folded across her breast, and on the third finger of the left hand was a ring of twisted bronze wire. (Query, was this a marriage ring? If so, it indicates the use of the ring for this purpose as prior to Christianity amongst the Teutonic nations. I myself suspect that this was so.) On her breast were two flat silver brooches, about the size of a five shilling piece, each brooch ornamented with a pattern of six small incised circles round the centre of the field. A small diamond-shaped bronze pendant was found near them. At her waist a silver buckle, about three inches long, with slight and rude pattern. A knife lay close by, evidently having hung at her girdle. Close by his mistress (indeed his bones mingled with hers) lay a little lap-dog. The bones of a little child of about two years of age lay a few paces off northwards, and between them two skulls (which had been cooked) of the "*bos longifrons*"—a very rare find in a Saxon burial-place.

There were, however, many indications (positions north and south, ornaments, urn, &c.) that the lady herself was a heathen. The burial was probably of the seventh century. Twelve hundred years ago! Some paces away from the grave the spade disclosed the former existence of a circular excavation, the made soil descending about four feet down through the natural stone brash. This was almost certain the remains of one of their dwellings. The Roman historian speaking of this people says in his "*Germania*":—"They inhabit subterraneous caves, dug by their own labour, and carefully covered over with soil, in winter their retreat from cold and the repository of their corn. In these recesses they not only find a shelter from the rigour of the season, but in times of foreign invasion their effects are carefully concealed." It sets one thinking. We dig among these poor people's bones, and put their trinkets in our museums, and thank God that we are not as they, barbarous and rude as the beasts that perish. These are noble words of Tacitus, writing of these women—"Lest the wife should think her sex an exemption from the rigours of the severest virtue and the toils of war, she is informed of her duty by the marriage ceremony; and thence she learns that she is received by her husband to be his partner in toil and in danger, to dare with him in war and to suffer with him in peace. The oxen yoked (*bos longifrons*?), the horse accoutred, and the arms

given on the occasion, inculcate this lesson; and thus she is prepared to live and thus to die. . . Vice is not treated by the Germans as a subject of raillery; nor is the profligacy of corrupting and being corrupted called the fashion of the age.

. . . . With one husband as with one life, one mind, one body, every woman is satisfied. In him her happiness is centred; her desires extend no farther, and the principle is not only an affection for her husband's person, but a reverence for the marriage state."

These, anyhow, are our ancestors—the forefathers of the men who reared our cathedrals, and covered England with churches. Peace be with them!

"After life's fitful fever they sleep well."

Poor sleeping Saxon lady! It was touching to see her lie there in her finery, with her face towards the setting sun, while a rainbow rising on the path of a rain-storm, which swept past us, spanned a village church spire on the distant hill side, and a bell tolling up from the valley below sounded slowly for a Christian funeral.

THE SHRINE OF ST. ALBAN.

FEW archaeological discoveries of late years have equalled in interest that of the Shrine of St. Alban, now being made in the grand Abbey Church of that name. I say "being made" advisedly, for the fragments into which the shrine of the protomartyr of Britain was shivered at the Reformation were built up in the walls then erected to cut off the Lady Chapel from the church, when the former, one of the most beautiful and elaborately enriched examples of the Decorative style, was degraded to the purposes of a grammar school, and are gradually brought to light as these walls are demolished. The first portions were discovered about three weeks ago. Since then scarcely a day has passed without large additions being made to the fragments thus unexpectedly rescued after three centuries' concealment, and reasonable hopes are entertained of the recovery of the whole, and the restoration of the shrine in its integrity. When I was there, on the 6th ultimo, the workmen were continually bringing in fresh pieces of carved work, which Mr. Chapple, the clerk of the works under Mr. Gilbert Scott, was fitting together with consummate skill and a Cuvier-like discernment of the precise place in the complete design each was to occupy. Some fragments fitted together during my short visit formed a bas-relief of the martyrdom of St. Alban, representing the executioner with his drawn sword, with which he had just cut off the falling head of the kneeling saint. Another relief, which escaped me, depicts, I am told, the scourging of St. Amphibalus, the apocryphal saint, manufactured by mediæval martyrologists out of the cloak, *amphibalum*, of St. Alban. Another represents Offa holding his church.

By Mr. Chapple's directions a core of brickwork has been temporarily erected, round which the recovered fragments are being built up. The shrine appears to have been 9ft. long by 4ft. broad. Each of the longer sides was pierced with four niches, the shorter with two. These niches seem not to have come down to the ground to form kneeling recesses, as was usual with the shrines of saints, to enable the votaries to place themselves, as it were, immediately under the healing virtues of the relics encased in the feretrum alone, but to have been closed by panels of elaborate tracery to the height of 2½ ft. from the ground. The upper story of the shrine was formed of richly-grained canopied niches, under delicately carved pediments, the whole finished with a highly wrought cornice. The whole height, excluding the feretrum or shrine proper, containing the saint's relics, which being of precious metals is hopelessly lost, was about 8ft. Some twisted pillars have been found, reminding one of those at Edward the Confessor's shrine, at Westminster, but without mosaics. These seem to have stood detached and may have borne tapers. The material of the monument

is Purbeck shell marble, with the exception of the groining of the niches, which is of clunch, richly painted and gilt.

The whole shrine was elevated on low marble steps, much worn with the knees of the votaries.

The archaeological world is watching with the deepest interest the completion of this novel work of restoration, of which every day sees a fresh feature, and which, when finished, will be unrivalled in England.

EDMUND VENABLES.

The Precentory, Lincoln, March 11.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES.

[HOME.]

CHICHESTER.—Some workmen lately engaged in removing some rubbish from the north porch of Chichester Cathedral, to prepare for the reception of a new paving, came upon three graves, side by side, in the usual position, east and west, and there seems some peculiarity in the mode of burial. The bodies, it appears, were not encased in coffins, but were buried in their shrouds, in graves built in the ground, the material used in one instance being chalk, in the others stone. The west ends are semicircular for the reception of the heads, and the other parts of the graves taper off to the east in the usual coffin shape. When found they were without lids, but it is conjectured that some stone slabs, found near the spot some twelve months since, when the pathway was being cut, were originally placed over the bodies. The graves have since been carefully covered in with cement. The interments are supposed to have been made in the 14th century.

CUMBERLAND.—An interesting discovery of Roman pottery has just been made at Papcastle, near Cockermouth, while some excavations were being made. The chief of the fragments were fine bright red Samian ware, and were discovered about 6 feet from the surface.

DOVER.—Building operations at Dover Castle have been enlivened by the frequent discovery of human skeletons. Recently a skeleton was found by the workmen in the course of their excavations for the battery in front of the military hospital; and another has been dug up at the south side of the Pharos. It was lying in a horizontal position, with the fleshless hands crossed over the bony framework of the breast. The arches in the Pharos, blocked up in the time of the Duke of Wellington, are now being again exposed to the light of day. Lieutenant Peck, R.E., has charge of the restoration, in the course of which it was seen that the Pharos goes down into the earth about 6 feet, and is built on a bed of clay, free from grit or foreign matter of any kind. During the excavations a stone was found bearing the inscription, "St. Radigund's."

GLOUCESTER.—Some interesting Roman remains have been brought to light on the premises of Mr. Rumsey, of Southgate Street. An excavation had to be made in the cellar, and at a depth of about 10 feet from the surface of the footway, the workmen came upon the border of a tessellated pavement. The tesserae are of white and black, first in bands, and next worked in a design like that of a carpenter's square. The floor is in excellent preservation. The pavement is laid parallel to the existing street.

STAMFORD.—On removing the paper and canvas covering the walls of a room in a dwelling-house, near the High Street, a mediæval stone fire-place has been discovered, 7 feet long, worked at the sides with the double ogee moulding, and ornamented with spandrels. Above were flowers and foliage in fresco painting in stencilling. The house was built in the 16th century, with walls of oak and plaster, and beneath is a cellar of ashlar stone, with a semi-circular arched ceiling, of excellent masonry, and of similar date.

[FOREIGN.]

CAPUA.—In the course of excavations at Capua, a prize vase has recently been found, which was won at the gymnastic sports at Athens in the year 332 B.C. The skeleton that lay in the tomb beside it is probably that of the winner. Unlike our costly cups, it is simply an amphora of clay, with a painting that represents on one side the goddess Athene hurling her spear and striding between two columns, which indicate the place of contest, each column being surmounted by a figure of Victory; on the other side a group of wrestlers, with a youth on the left looking on, and an umpire on the right, a bearded old man, with branch of office in his hand. On the front is written the name of the chief magistrate at Athens for the year, and the words "A prize from Athens." Such vases are rare, and, apart from their archaeological value in determining the character of this branch of art at a particular time, awaken a more general interest from the circumstances in which they are found.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

[Secretaries of Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies throughout the Kingdom will confer a favour by forwarding to the Editor of this Journal all Notices and Reports of Meetings, and also their Periodical Publications.]

[LONDON.]

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

A MEETING was held on Monday, the 18th ultimo, when Dr. CHARNOCK, V.P., was in the chair.

M. Letourneur and Dr. Haast were elected corresponding members.

Mr. G. Harris read a paper "On the Comparative Longevity of Man and Animals," in which he investigated the probable causes that mainly conduce to produce difference between the length of life in various species of animals and of man.

Sir D. Gibb, Bart., M.D., read a paper "On the Physical Condition of Centenarians," His remarks were founded upon an examination of six genuine examples, in whom he found the organs of circulation and respiration in a condition more approaching to the prime of life than old age. There was an absence of all those changes usually observed in persons reaching seventy years, and in nearly all the special senses were unimpaired, and the intelligence perfect; thus showing, at any rate, the complete integrity of the nervous system.

Dr. L. Adams exhibited and described a series of stone implements from the island of Herm.

Col. Fox contributed a note "On some Stone Implements and Pottery from St. Brieenne, Normandy."

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING was held on Thursday, the 21st ultimo, when W. S. W. VAUX, Esq., President, was in the chair.

The Rev. A. H. Cummings, Messrs. H. Webb and H. Clark, were elected members.

Mr. Frentzel exhibited the two varieties of the Prussian war-medals given to combatants and non-combatants during the late war.

The Rev. T. S. Lewis exhibited a tetradrachm of Athens, differing from one described by M. Beulé, in giving ΕΡΜΟΚΡΑ instead of ΕΡΜΟΚ, and thus suggesting that the name in full was ΕΡΜΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ, and not ΕΡΜΟΚΑΗΣ. He also exhibited a plate coin Gordian III., with the reverse, ΤΡΑΝΚΥΙΛΙΤΑΣ ΑΥΓΓ, probably taken from a die of Philip I.

Mr. Herbert Grueber gave an account of the discovery, by Mr. J. T. Wood, at Ephesus, in his excavations on the site of the Temple of Diana, of a hoard of 2231 mediæval silver coins, and several lumps of the same metal. The spot

where the hoard was found is supposed to be a portion of the cemetery of the ancient church of St. John. The coins of which the hoard consists are of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and belong to Naples, Rhodes, Venice, Geusa, the Papal States, the island of Scio, and the Seljuks of Asia Minor. They are of little value, excepting those which have been struck by the Christian subjects of the Seljuk Emeers at the cities of Magnesia and Ephesus, and which resemble in type the money current during that period in Naples and Sicily. The coin struck at Magnesia, there being but a single specimen of this coin in the hoard, has the legend in Latin, with the name of the Seljuk Emeer Saroo Khan. Those struck at Ephesus, of which there are but thirteen specimens, have the legend also in Latin, with the Greek mediæval name of that city, Theologos, for Ἅγιος Θεολόγος, whence the contemporary Italian name, Alto Luogo, or the Turkish, Aya Soluk, which latter name is still borne by the town at present situate there.

[PROVINCIAL.]

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ON Tuesday, the 12th ultimo, this Society had an excursion to Southleigh, Cokethorpe, Ducklington, and Witney. The party, which numbered nearly seventy, left Oxford by the twelve o'clock train, and first visited

SOUTHLEIGH CHURCH,

which is now undergoing restoration, and where, as we have already stated, some remarkable wall paintings have been found. They were met at the church by the Rev. Gerard Moultrie, the vicar, who gave a description of them. He observed that on the north side of the chancel arch there were two figures representing archangels, with their feet upwards and blowing trumpets. The saved were on the right, and the lost on the left-hand side of them. The naked figures, as he understood them, were the saved, and were rising from their graves. One of them had a coronet and another a mitre upon his head. Above them appeared to be a Pope with a triple crown. He was of opinion that there had been a figure of our Lord in glory at the top immediately over the centre of the arch, but of this there was no trace now. On the south side of the arch was a brown devil presenting his fork to one of the figures at the right. Here was also a devil shoving down into hell a number of miserable beings whom the angel was endeavouring to draw up with a rope which he had fastened around his waist. On the north-east wall of the nave was a figure in good preservation, at the gates of Paradise, with a key in his left hand. He is vested in a black cope with morse. Besides this there were two or three naked figures with crowns on their heads, apparently arisen from the grave. Above them were represented angels looking over the parapets of a castellated building. In the north aisle was a full-sized figure of St. Clement of Rome. It was in good preservation, and appeared as though it was in the act of benediction; it stood in a canopied niche, boldly sketched. It was vested in a flowered chasuble, with episcopal gloves, and a crozier in his left hand over his left shoulder. In his right hand was a rope, which was attached to an anchor, which was his symbol to indicate that he met with his martyrdom by drowning in the sea, near the Crimea. On the south wall was the mouth of hell, and a tremendous devil with horns and hair something like a Durham ox. There was an old fresco painting also on the south wall of the nave. One of the figures it contained was that of the Virgin Mary, and the other that of St. Michael the Archangel. Between them stood an angel with half-spread wings, holding a balance in his hands, in one scale of which was a devil with horns and tail. On the north side of the chancel was a saint preaching, and holding a processional cross in his hands. Paintings have also been discovered in

the chancel on the east wall. On the west end of the north aisle was a painting representing the open mouth of hell, with the Vices issuing from it. Over their heads their names are labelled—"Envy," "Sloth," &c.

Mr. James Parker gave a brief history of the church. He observed that the first mention of the place was in the Domesday Survey, under the name of Lege, and that in 1130 it was divided into two parts, Northleigh and Southleigh, the former being granted to Osney Abbey. About twenty years later, in 1150, he found that a grant was made of this chapel to Reading Abbey, for the remains of which he thought they must look to the chancel, in which was a door of this date, and which did not appear to have been removed. The chancel he considered to be therefore of the 12th century. Of course they could see that there had been alterations made in the chancel, and the east window was in all probability inserted in the 15th century. The chancel arch appeared to be of the early 14th century date. Possibly the little chancel might have had a nave or a portion of a nave, but it was only described as a chapel. Whether, however, there was in that time aisles or not there was no evidence to show. In the 15th century the present windows were placed in the south wall, and an aisle was added to the church on the north side. With regard to the brass that had been found to the memory of "Wm. Secoll," and of the date of 1557, he observed that there was no family of that name in the parish at the present time.

A Gentleman present remarked that there were some poor people at Witney bearing that name.

Mr. Parker said that he found no family of any importance in the neighbourhood bearing that name. But there was a merchant of that name in London, and he thought it was quite possible that in the 16th century, when merchants obtained such wealth far and near, one of them might have purchased property here, and died here and was buried in the church. It was also at about this date the south windows were erected. He thought it very probable that both the chancel arch and the paintings over the same were of the reign of Edward II. The border of the painting in the south wall appeared as though it was of a later period—the reign of Mary—when, perhaps, the church was restored with money left by this Secoll whom he had mentioned.

The Rev. Gerard Moultrie said that with regard to the figure of St. Clement it was remarkable that the church was not dedicated to that saint, but that on the margin of the parish there was a small group of houses, the locality being known as St. Clement's Field. He mentioned also the fact that John Wesley had preached his first sermon in that church, that he occasionally preached there for many years afterwards, and that the pulpit in which he had preached would be restored.

The company then inspected, by the kindness of the vicar, some ancient documents belonging to the church. One was a register of christenings, marriages, and burials, commencing with the year 1612. Another was a book containing churchwardens' accounts, and commencing in 1672. An ancient brass crucifix, which was dug up twelve years ago by a labourer in an orchard 700 yards south-west of the church, was a special object of attraction. After inspecting the exterior of the church, the party, after a pleasant walk across the fields, arrived at

COKETHORPE CHAPEL,

situate in Cokethorpe Park, three miles distant. The principal object of interest here is the font, which is a remarkably handsome one, and which stands in the chancel. Mr. Parker observed that it was not in its right position, and pointed out that one side of it had been cut away, and that it must, therefore, have at one time stood against a wall. He drew particular attention to the handsome carved work around its bowl, and observed that they got there something like the origin of the pointed arch. Here were two round arches intersecting each other, which, as regards mere form,

produced the pointed arches. With respect to the date there were one or two peculiarities about it. Some of the ornaments on it appeared to be about the middle of the 12th century—King Stephen's reign—such as the nail head and the rose ornaments. On the south side of Ifley church was a rose ornament similar to the one they saw on the font. But they would observe also a kind of tooth ornament, which was characteristic of the 13th century. That font probably gave them the key note to the whole building. The southern wall of the chapel appeared to be of Norman origin. It seemed to be the rule that the only thing worth preserving in old churches was the 12th century doorway. If the west window was in its original position, the tower was of the 13th century. There were some very good windows in the chapel, but they had had their tracery cut out. They were of good splay, and the architectural details were too good for modern work. The square window at the west end appeared to be of Henry VIII.'s time. With regard to the history of the place he observed that the first entry he had found of a church here was in 1272.

The Rev. W. D. Macray, Rector of Ducklington, said that there were no records of the church so far as he had been able to trace, and very little was known of its history.

The interior and exterior of the church, and some books, which were chained up in the porch, and bearing date 1734, having been inspected,

COKETHORPE HOUSE,

the residence of Mrs. Strickland, was visited, and by this lady's kind permission the magnificent paintings in her drawing-room were inspected. One of special interest was that of Sir Thomas More and his family, painted by Holbein. There were others by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Vandeyck, Poussin, Swanefeld, &c. The party remained here some little time, admiring the paintings as well as the picturesque views of the park from the windows.

DUCKLINGTON CHURCH,

a mile distant, was next visited. Mr. Parker gave a history of the church. He pointed out the inaccuracy in the work published by Bishop Kennett respecting that place as belonging to Alfred. Again, King Edgar granted a charter to Dudington, not Ducklington, and they knew nothing about the place until they got to the Domesday Survey. This, he said, was one of the finest 13th century churches in Oxfordshire. He pointed out that there was a great deal of difference in the arches on the north and south sides separating the aisles from the nave. Those of the latter were much earlier than the former. One of the pillars had a nail head ornament, the same kind of ornament as they saw on the font at Cokethorpe chapel, and a person might almost imagine that the pillar and the font were carved by the same chisel and the same hand. This could not be earlier than the close of the 12th century. The chancel probably dated from Henry III.'s reign, but he could not say whether it was early or late in that reign. On the wall on the north side of the church was the ball flower ornament, which was found on St. Mary's spire, Oxford, in great profusion. It was a characteristic ornament of the early part of Edward III.'s reign, and the tracery of this aisle was also of that period. Mr. Parker, in conclusion, drew attention to some sculptures and tombs, and the fine 14th century mouldings.

The Rev. W. D. Macray, the Rector, explained what alterations had been made in the chancel, and directed special attention to the extremely beautiful windows on the north side of the church, and some sculptures in the north aisle, and a vault under the north porch.

Other portions of the church, both in the interior and exterior, were inspected, after which the ladies, by the kindness of the Rector and Mrs. Macray, partook of tea and coffee at the Rectory House. The party then proceeded to

WITNEY,

where the beautiful parish church was visited. The party

was here received by the Rev. F. M. Cunningham, the Vicar, who explained that the pillars and arches on each side of the nave were the original walls of the old Norman church. When the church was enlarged these walls were knocked through, and the arches and pillars formed out of them. The church was originally very low, and they could now see in the wall the line of the original roof. The walls had since been raised much higher. The church was of the 13th century, but it had almost entirely been rebuilt. He then pointed out the ancient crypt in the north transept, some monuments on the south side, and other objects.

The party shortly afterwards left by train for Oxford, a most agreeable day's excursion being brought to a close.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE HISTORIC ASSOCIATION.

THE eleventh meeting of the twenty-fourth session of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire has just been held, at the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street; Mr. HENRY DAWSON in the chair.

The business began by the election of the Marquis of Salisbury as a life member, after which several objects of interest were exhibited, including a collection of Japanese carvings in ivory, sent by Mr. Robert Rawlinson, C.B., which showed great elaborateness and exquisite fineness in workmanship. A collection of armorial bearings of some of the great families of the United Kingdom was exhibited by Mr. F. Broughton. A copy of the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, dated 16th April, 1789, was also shown, containing a description of the order of procession that was to be observed at the thanksgiving ceremony at St. Paul's, on the occasion of the recovery from illness of George III. The *Courant*, which was a small sheet published three times a week, at three pence each copy, among other things stated that the then Duke of Argyle had just given a grand dinner, on the recovery of his daughter, and that at the said dinner the noble duke was so elated that he passed the bottle briskly, and sang an appropriate song of his own composition.

Mr. E. A. Hefter then made some interesting observations on some of the armorial bearings of Lancashire and Cheshire families.

The other business before the meeting was the reading of a letter by Dr. Buxton, which had been sent to him by an English lady resident in East Prussia, giving a description of how Christmas is observed in that part of the Continent.

LIVERPOOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

THE usual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, the 19th ultimo, in the Lecture-room, Free Library, William Brown Street. In the absence, through illness, of the president, the chair was taken by Mr. J. HARRIS GIBSON.

The secretary acknowledged donations to the Library and Museum from Messrs. Ahlborn, Bowker, &c.

Mr. G. H. Ahlborn exhibited three pieces struck in copper, reading—"Two Tub. and one Tub., Stein, Brown, and Co."

Mr. H. F. Brown, an American coin, with bust to right, and legend reading, "Auctore Plebis;" reverse plain.

Mr. J. Selke, proof crown of William IV., and silver coin of Alexandra; the first of which was greatly admired, as it is one of the scarcest of the English series, the Mint having only issued a limited number for the cabinets of collectors, and at sales they always command high prices.

Mr. J. H. Gibson exhibited an ancient Greek coin of Ephesus, about 200 B.C., and a naval war medal, in silver, given to those engaged in the battle of the Nile.

Mr. H. Chapman exhibited ten and five grammas coins of the Spanish Republic, 1870.

Mr. H. F. Brown read a very interesting paper on the copper coins struck in France during the reign of the Bourbon family. He sketched, briefly, the reign of each

monarch, from Henry IV. down to Charles X., and he remarked, respecting those issued by Louis XIII., that as the king grew older so was the likeness on the coin; and among those exhibited were four varieties of profile.

Mr. J. Harris Gibson read a short communication on an Irish political medal. In the year 1753 a Bill was presented, entitled "An Act for the payment of 77,500*l.*, or so much thereof as shall remain due on the 25th Dec., 1753, in discharge of the National Debt." This Bill was read a first time, and on the following night the alteration as follows was proposed to be inserted in the preamble: "That your Majesty would consent that so much of the money remaining in your Majesty's Treasury be applied to the discharge of the National Debt." The enacting paragraphs of the Bill were agreed to; but not so the preamble, and, in a division that took place, was lost by 124 to 129. Each of the minority was presented with a gold impression of the medal exhibited, the inscriptions on which are in Latin, and translate thus:—"Who made others mindful of himself by deserving well of them? Sacred to the 124 Senators who, holding fast to their object firmly and prudently, well maintained the rights of their country, Dec. 17, 1743. Wherefore live ye firm. However posterity may judge of the circumstance, the love of country prevails."

A vote of thanks was passed to those who had contributed to the evening's proceedings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor solicits Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of Antiquarian discoveries, with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest.]

PRE-HISTORIC ANTIQUITIES OF NORTH AMERICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ANTIQUARY.

SIR,—The kindly notices of my article on the above subject, by Mr. Hyde Clarke, in the recent numbers of the *Antiquary*, are very gratifying, especially as they so entirely support my general conclusions on the vexed questions involved in that subject. As regards the authenticity of the *Timæus* of Plato, I certainly did feel some hesitation upon that point, but the sin, I believe, was on the safe side.

Mr. Hyde Clarke says, that "to get at the clue to the ancient intercourse with the Americans, we must evidently go back beyond the Roman, the Greek, and even the Semitic epochs."

Having made the study of Roman, Greek, and Semitic roots a speciality, his words have great weight, and to reject them would require an *equal* knowledge on my part of those roots in conjunction with that department of language now known by the name of the Caucaso-Tibetan, which I do not possess; but hope I shall be forgiven if I venture to wait until I have the pleasure of seeing this branch of American archaeology discussed in detail; in doing so, I have no misgiving as to the result.

The mistake often made of supposing philological evidence *alone* determining race should be well guarded against. Mr. Hyde Clarke truly says, "in a few years we shall find Welshmen, Irishmen, black men in West Africa, and Polynesians in Hawaii and New Zealand, speaking and using English; but we know that they are not of the same race, nor of the English race!"*

Our present state of knowledge is not so far advanced as to enable us to ascertain who were the races which *first* visited America, and the order in which they entered. I do not despair of science ultimately settling this question, for the comparative study of monuments, non-historic and historic, implements of all kinds (which in some instances are of

* *The Antiquary*, p. 54.

materials quite foreign to the places they are formed in, especially in the case of shells*), traditions, manners, and customs, and languages, was never so energetically pursued, as we are now witnesses of.

When I wrote my article on this subject I had not Mr. Hyde Clarke's view on the philological portion before me, which is a valuable accession to our knowledge; consequently I quoted Hervas, as classing the languages of America in eleven families, as being the very best authority.

Before concluding this letter, I wish to call your attention to the following *errata* in the second part of my article:—

1st col.—For "Abentian Island," read, "Aleutian Island."

For, "Behring's Straits Sea," read, "Behring's Straits and Sea."

2nd col.—For "classify is," read "classify are," &c.,
3rd line from bottom, omit the word "being."

Hastings, March 28. J. JEREMIAH, JUN.

ANCIENT CROSS IN BAKEWELL CHURCH-YARD.

SIR,—As the subject of "Ancient Crosses" has received special attention in your columns, I should feel obliged for information respecting a fine specimen which stands in the churchyard of Bawell. It is beautifully carved on one side and edges with a very handsome running pattern, forming coils, and terminating at the top with an animal; also one on the crossbeam. From the description given in the *Antiquary* (No. 22), "On Crosses in Llanbadarn Churchyard," by Mr. J. Jeremiah, I should think this one has a striking resemblance, if not belonging to the same period. Perhaps Mr. J. Jeremiah or Mr. Dunkin can best inform me.

111, Union Road, S.E.

R. E. WAY.

THE DRUIDS IN BRITAIN.

SIR,—The matter which now lies within my compass relative to this singular class of people will, I fear, fall far short of what is really sought for by your worthy correspondent, Mr. Edward Javens. However, I have much pleasure in furnishing a brief account of this ancient religious order of priests, from some of the best possible sources.

Cæsar has given in his "Commentary" the clearest and most minute account of them. He has shown that the Druids were the judges and arbitrators of all disputes, both public and private; that they took cognizance of murders, inheritances, boundaries, limits, and decreed rewards and punishments. Such as disobeyed their decisions they excommunicated, which was their principal punishment; the criminal being hereby excluded from all public assemblies, and avoided by the world, inasmuch that no one was allowed to converse with him for fear of being polluted. The Druids had one chief or Arch Druid in every nation, who acted as high priests or *pontifex maximus*, and who ruled with absolute authority over all the rest. As to the amount of knowledge possessed by the Druids no one can now determine. They, however, possessed some knowledge of the heavenly bodies beyond what simply pertained to the rules of their religious festivals, inasmuch as they completed the year by lunations, which supposes an acquaintance also with the solar year; and various relics are reported to have been found in Ireland among Druidical remains, which are considered to be astronomical instruments, designed to show the phases of the moon. They had a class of priests among them called the "Bards," whose office it was to celebrate the praises and exploits of their heroes in verse; their compositions were usually sung to harps. Many of these Bards exercised their functions even after the Romans had left the island. They had a third class of priests, who were called

Eubates; and their business, as Marcellinus states, was to study natural philosophy. In their doctrine of medicines they exhibited much more superstition than knowledge, as to many plants they attributed a sacred mystic character, especially to that of the oak. Notwithstanding, they were the first and most distinguished order among the Britons and Gauls; they were chosen out of the best families; and the honours of their birth, united with those of their function, procured them the highest veneration among the people.

Many authors differ respecting the true derivation of the word Druid, some deriving it from Hebrew *Derussin* or *Drussin*, which they translate "*contemplators*." Others believe the Druids to have been thus called from *Drui*, or *Dryius*, their leader, the fourth or fifth king of the Gauls. Pliny derives the name from *δρυς*, oak, also from their veneration to that tree, considering that they never sacrificed under it. It is thought to be singular how they should come to speak Greek. Menage and Borel are almost agreed as to the derivation of the word Druid, *i.e.*, "a magician." Gorop. Becanus, *Lib. I.*, takes *Drui* to be an old Celtic and German word, formed from *Trovis* or *Truvis*, a doctor of the truth and faith, which etymology Vossius agrees in. But I am most ready to adopt Pliny's rendering of the word, in conjunction with Salmasius and Viginère.

Cæsar, it is believed, saw some of the Druids in Britain. It appears most probable that the ancient Britons were originally Gauls, and that some Celtæ, or Belgæ, Gaulish nations, were the first that entered our island, and that the Druids accompanied them. Hornius, a learned writer, believes all the learning and philosophy of the Druids to have been derived from the Assyrian magi. Dr. Gale, Dickerson, and a few others contend that the Druids borrowed all their learning and religion from the Jews.

The British and Gaulish children were instructed by the Druids. Mela states to the effect that the children of the nobility retired with their tutors into caverns and most desolate parts of the forest, where they continued many of them for twenty years together. When the Romans subdued the Gauls, the religion of the Druids gradually passed away to make room for classic heathenism. However, it lingered most in the island of Anglesea, whence it was finally driven out by the Roman soldiers, amid a great deal of slaughter. Nevertheless, it continued as the most prominent superstitious belief for many years after among the Celtic tribes and their descendants. The Druids held that no one must be instructed but in the sacred groves, and that mistletoe must be gathered with reverence, and if possible in the sixth moon: it must be cut with a golden bill, &c. They also believed in the immortality of the soul; that after corporeal death the soul passed into other bodies. In these sacred groves were several high stones, supposed to be the altars on which they offered their victims. Some of these stones are still remaining in England, Wales, and Ireland, and in the island of Anglesea, and are of such an amazing magnitude that the bringing and rearing them was thought by the superstitious to have been the work of those demons who were supposed to attend their religious ceremonies. Druidical remains are very common in many parts. Rowland, in his "*Mona Antiqua Restaurata*," states that they are common in the Isle of Anglesea, which remains were formerly used as sepulchral monuments. It appears that the ancient Britons had a custom of throwing stones on the deceased, from which custom the Welsh derived this proverb "*Karn Ardyben*," "Ill betide thee!" Stonehenge is the most conspicuous temple for Druidical worship now remaining in Britain, which is believed to have been the archiepiscopal seat of that worship, and consists of the remains of two circular and two oval ranges of rough stones, having common centres.

Further than this I need not go on the present occasion, Perhaps some of your able correspondents may deem a still further proof necessary of the Druids inhabiting Britain,

* See a most valuable and interesting article on, "Some Ethnographic Phases of Conchology," by Daniel Wilson, LL.D., in the *Canadian Journal*, new series, No. 17, September, 1858.

which I shall be glad to see. Lucan, the ancient poet, wrote a Latin poem on the religion of the Druids, which an old writer has Englished thus :—

"You (Druids) free rom wars, with barbarous deuces
Sinistrous rites performe, and uncouth sacrifices.
High mysteries, of God and Heucons, you only know;
Or only erre therein. Where shady woods doe grow
There you repose; and teach that soules immortal be,
Nor silent Erebus, nor Plutoes Hall shall see.
And (if your Sawes be sooth) Death is no finall doome,
But only Mid-way, twixt life past and life to come;
Braue Britain bloods perduwarmed with this happy error,
Death (greatest feare of feares) amates them with no terror.
Hence t's, they mainly rush on pikes and grisly death,
And some base minds, that stick to spend reuiuing breath."

Churchyard, Waltham Abbey.

W. WINTERS.

TRAJANO BOCCALINI.

SIR,—Trajano Boccacini was a native of Loreto, bor n *cir.* 1556. He was highly esteemed by the Italian *literati* for his political discourses and his elegant criticisms, as also for his wit. After many difficulties in early life, he went to Rome, when he soon became the favourite of Cardinal Bentivoglio, who greatly admired his literary talents. He appears to have obtained several employments from the Papal Court. Under the patronage of Cardinals Borghese and Cajetan, he published his best works, *e.g.* "I. Ragguali di Parnaso," "Secretaria di Apollo," and "La Pietra del Paragone Politico." He also wrote Commentaries on Tacitus. The "Parnaso" in substance assumes a mythological form, but contains much information on Italian literature. In his "Paragone" he attacks the tyranny of the Spanish Court, through which he speedily became very unpopular, and not only so, but he dreaded the vengeance which he expected would issue from the court; thus, in this state of mind he fled to Venice, which circumstance occurred a year before his death. While at Venice he was attacked in his bed by four ruffians, who killed him by beating him with bags full of sand. Various were the reports spread about concerning his end, but it was generally imagined that it proceeded from the Spanish Court.

The register of St. Mary's, Venice, records that "he died of a colic and fever, 16th of November, 1613, aged 57." His principal works have been translated in several languages.

W. WINTERS.

Churchyard, Waltham Abbey.

ON AN ANECDOTE RELATED BY R. WANOSTROCHT.

SIR,—In R. Wanostrocht's "Recueil Choisi de Traits Historiques et de Contes Moraux," &c. (third edition, 1791), p. 13, there is an anecdote, entitled "L'Avarice d'un Hôte, fait le Bonheur d'une pauvre Femme," which brings in question a reputed original painting by Raphael. I should be obliged by information as to whether this anecdote is authentic, and supported by more authoritative evidence, or whether it simply proceeds from the imaginative faculties of the above-named writer. I am inclined to think that it comes under the class of the too-good-to-be-true stories, so often told respecting men of genius and note. It is as follows :—

"Une pauvre fruitière n'ayant pu payer au jour marqué le lacer de son petit logement, son hôte impitoyable lui fit vendre ses meubles. Le peu qu'elle en avait pouvoit suffire à peine pour payer sa dette et les frais de la vente; elle alloit se voir réduite à la mendicité. Elle fondoit en larmes pendant qu'on vendoit ses meubles; mais son chagrin augmenta lorsqu'elle vit qu'on alloit crier un portrait, tout enfumé, d'un pied et demi de hauteur, et dont elle faisoit beaucoup de cas. Un peintre, qui l'avait examiné, le mit à dixhuit sols: un curieux, qui s'y connoissoit aussi bien que le peintre, le mit à un écu. Le peintre crut que pour étonner

celui-ci, et lui faire perdre l'envie du portrait, il n'avait qu'à le pousser un peu haut tout d'un coup. 'A une guinée,' dit-il. Le curieux rêva un peu, ou il fit semblant de rêver, 'A vingt-cinq guinées,' reprit-il. 'A cinquante,' ajouta le peintre. Le cœur de la bonne femme palpitait de joie; son loger et les frais étaient déjà payés par le portrait. Sa joie redoubla, quand elle entendit l'amateur, qui le mit à deux cens guinées; et qui pourrait exprimer celle qu'elle eut, quand elle vit que de prix le porta jusqu'à six cens. Le peintre lui dit, en pleurant, 'Vous êtes heureux, monsieur, d'être plus riche que moi; car il vous coûteroit mille guinées, ou je l'aurois.' C'était un original de Raphaël."

J. P.

ROMAN EXPLORATION FUND.

SIR,—Will you permit me to make known to my numerous friends in England and the subscribers to the Roman Exploration Fund, that I have this day been through the subterranean passage from the vestibule of the great ancient Mamertine Prison (commonly called the Prison of St. Peter), under the Church of the Crucifixion, near the arch of Septimius Severus, and the principal chambers of that prison called the Lautumiae, now cellars under the houses in the Via di Marforio and the Vicolo del Ghetto. This passage is eighty yards long, nearly two high and one wide, and the construction, as well as that of the prison, is of the large blocks of tufa, usually called in Rome the walls of the kings, the same as that of the earliest part of the Cloaca Maxima. The excavation of this passage has been a tedious, difficult, and expensive work, and I hope it will be duly appreciated by the subscribers. It clearly settles another long-disputed question among scholars, and demonstrates that this is the prison in the middle of the city, mentioned by Livy, as made in the time of Ancus Martius [A. U. C. 121. B. C. 632. *Livii hist. lib. I. c. 33*]. All the disputed points in the historical topography of Rome might be settled and demonstrated in the same manner, if the necessary funds were forthcoming. I have had plans and sections made of this, and shall have them published as soon as possible and sent to the subscribers.

JOHN HENRY PARKER, C.B.

Rome, 27, Via Felice,
March 18, 1872.

QUERIES.

SIR,—Lord Campbell, in his "Lives of the Chancellors," Vol. I, p. 160, 4th edition, quotes the following entry from the Close Roll, *temp.* Edward I. :—

"On the 23rd August, in the 30th year of the King, in the King's Chamber, at Kensington, in the presence of Otho de Grandison, Amadio Earl of Savoy, John de Bretagne and others of the King's Council, the King's Great Seal was delivered by the King's order, by the hand of Lord John de Drakensford, Keeper of the Wardrobe, to Lord Adam de Osgodeberg, Keeper of the Rolls of Chancery, who was enjoined to keep it under the seal of Master John de Caen, and the Lords William de Birlay and Robert de Bardelay, until the King should provide himself with a Chancellor.

"The Seal being so disposed of, the King set forward on his journey to Dover, by way of Chichester."

Can you or your readers inform me where this "Chamber" was, which makes Kensington regal far earlier than the days of Henry VIII. and his conduit, or William III. and his palace here?

A. O. K.

Can any one give a list of those cuts by Bewick that were published separately as prints or engravings?

Tivoli Cottage, Cheltenham.

H. S. SKIPTON.

EXPENDITURE ON THE NATIONAL GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS.

A RETURN has been furnished to the House of Lords, on the motion of Lord Overstone, as to the sums expended on the following Public Galleries and Museums:—

National Gallery.—1. Total amount expended on account of purchases from the date of its commencement to the present time, 337,195*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*; 2. Total amount expended during the same period on account of annual cost of the establishment and other outgoings, 133,384*l.* 11*s.*; 3. Total amount expended on building account, 102,490*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* Note.—The amount of 7014*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* was received by sale of catalogues to March 31, 1871, and paid over to Her Majesty's Exchequer.

South Kensington Museum.—1. Total amount expended on account of purchases, from the date of its commencement, in 1853, to the present time (31st March, 1871), 308,697*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; 2. Total amount expended during the same period on account of annual cost of the establishment and other outgoings (including schools of science and art), 1,133,617*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; 3. Total amount expended on building account, 231,740*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*

National Portrait Gallery.—1. Total amount expended on account of purchases, from the date of its commencement to the present time (31st March, 1871), 14,483*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*; 2. Total amount expended during the same period on account of annual cost of the establishment and other outgoings, 11,395*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*; 3. Total amount expended on building account (including rent), 4320*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

British Museum.—1. Total amount expended on account of purchases and acquisitions (including the amount expended in excavations) from the commencement of the year 1824 to the present time (31st March, 1871), 778,814*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*; 2. Total amount expended during the same period on account of annual cost of the establishment and other outgoings, 1,643,786*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; 3. Total amount expended on building account, including furniture, fittings, and architects' commission, from Michaelmas, 1823 (when new buildings were commenced), to the 31st March, 1871, 1,299,068*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

RESTORATIONS.

MARTON.—The old church of Marton has been restored. It was found, upon examination of the lower part of the main timbers supporting the tower and spire, that the portions below the surface were completely gone, and it was necessary to renew the four square compound posts at the angles of the tower, which are strengthened by struts in the form of buttresses. The chancel is now of timber and plaster, to correspond with the nave. New steps have also been carried up from the road to the west entrance.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The restoration of St. Michael's church has been pushed forward for completion by Easter. The roofs of the aisles have been strengthened, and the whole of the pews and galleries removed; the aisles will be open from end to end, and not blocked up so much as formerly. The old roundabout staircase to the belfry and tower, which previously occupied so much room, has been done away with, and a circular one substituted, and placed in a much more advantageous position. The flooring of the church will not be quite so high as formerly, the original level being taken, while the alterations will give a better interior view of the east window and the altar.

YORK MINSTER.—Mr. Street, the architect, has just visited York, and operations have commenced for the rebuilding of the clerestory. The first energies of the Dean and Chapter will be directed to restoring the clerestory and placing the roof in a satisfactory state. This is expected to occupy about fifteen months. Following this will be the restoration of the south front, which will occupy much time and require great care, the original structure having been materially interfered with in former repairs.

WAKEFIELD.—The Restoration Committee of the Wakefield parish church are about to commence the restoration of the remainder of the interior of the building, and upwards of 3000*l.* has been lately obtained towards 5000*l.*, the amount required. It is proposed to remove the two remaining galleries, and so to arrange the floor of the church that additional and commodious sittings may be obtained. The entire floor requires to be levelled and laid with concrete; stalls of uniform style should be substituted for the present irregular and unsightly pews.

THE TICHBORNE FAMILY.

THIS family was represented on the High Court of Justice which condemned Charles I. to the block.

Mr. Robert Tichborne, a member of a younger branch of the family, in his early life carried on business as a linen-draper in the City of London. At the commencement of the disturbances he attached himself to the Parliamentary party, to whose interests he became entirely devoted. He launched out deeply into the extravagances of the popular party, of whom he became a leader. When the civil war broke out he entered the Parliamentary army, and passing through various ranks to that of colonel, was appointed Lieutenant of the Tower under General Fairfax. In this position his power was very considerable, as he commanded the City at his will, and swayed the citizens at his pleasure. His consequence and power were so great that he was appointed one of the King's judges, and after presenting a petition from the Common Council of London for the trial, he omitted no opportunity of showing his deep interest in its progress and result. He was only absent from the Court during its entire sitting for two days; and he appended his signature to the warrant for executing Charles.

During the Commonwealth he attained high civic and national dignity. In 1650, he was one of the sheriffs of London; and in 1656 he was elected lord mayor of the City, under the appellation of Sir Robert Tichborne, skinner. He was held in such high favour and esteem by the Protector, that he was appointed one of the Committee of State in 1655, knighted, and made one of Cromwell's "lords." After his death, Tichborne attached himself to the interests of his son Richard, but had nevertheless sufficient influence to obtain seats on the Council of State and on the Committee of Safety.

At the Restoration he became a prisoner in the Tower. He was charged with treason, and with having maliciously taken part in the trial of Charles I., and signing his death warrant. He was tried at the Old Bailey in 1660. He pleaded that he acted in obedience to the Parliament, in ignorance, and without malice, no doubt in fulfilment of an agreement made between his friends and the Government. No evidence was offered against him by the prosecution, and his life was spared; but he lingered out the remainder of his days in captivity, and died a prisoner in the Tower, of which he was once the commander.

In the course of the recent Tichborne trial, the Attorney-General, in the peroration of his great speech, thus alluded to an earlier historical member of this ancient family:—

"In the time of Queen Elizabeth there was another Tichborne—ill-fated, honourable, and loyal until he got entangled in the conspiracy of Babington, and was beheaded on Tower Hill. In the old books of the time they would find a very beautiful composition—so beautiful that it was long attributed to Sir Walter Raleigh; but in the elder Mr. Disraeli's book, the 'Curiosities of Literature,' it would be seen that Chediok Tichborne had written it a short time before his death. These lines were as follows:—

" 'My prime of youth is but a frost of cares,
My feast of joys is but a dish of pain,
My crop of corn is but a field of tares,
And all my good is but vain hope of gain.
The day is fled and yet I saw no sun,
My spring is past and yet it hath not sprung,
The fruit is dead and yet the leaf is green,
My youth is past and yet I am but young,
I saw the world and yet I was not seen,
My thread is cut and yet it hardly spun,
And now I live and now my life is done.' "

The Attorney-General, again alluding to him, said:—

"When Chediok Tichborne came to lay down his head on Tower Hill, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, he spoke of the family of Tichborne as having lived unstained in its place in Hampshire for 200 years from before the Conquest. Three hundred more years have rolled away since the days of Queen Elizabeth, and the family is still there."

TWO LETTERS OF CHARLES I.

The following is from the *Athenæum* :—

A KIND friend, who for some months has been patiently ransacking their numerous volumes of "Gondomar Correspondence," in the private library of the ex-Queen of Spain, with the hope of finding something that might relate to the drama, or the dramatists living at the periods when Gondomar was Spanish Ambassador in London, has so far unearthed nothing bearing upon Shakespeare or his works; but among many historical odds and ends he has found two holograph letters of Charles Prince of Wales, written during his stay in the Spanish capital, to Count Gondomar, whom he calls in one of his principal *alcahuete* (go-between).

Gondomar was an eager collector of all sorts of manuscripts and books, and it is an historical fact that the Cottonian Collection very nearly fell into his hands. How keen the mania was is shown in the letter of his librarian at Valladolid, Enrique Teller, who, writing on receipt of a batch of books and manuscripts from London, says: "I will follow your instructions implicitly with respect to the manuscripts, which are many and very rare, including some Spanish, French, and Portuguese; but as for the English, they are the best I have ever seen in my life, as well historical as on other matters, and it is a pity no one understands them; the same I say of a multitude of papers in the same idiom, very curious, and which merit to be placed where they might be understood." I still hope that some of these papers may turn up somewhere in Spain: they can scarcely be those bound up in the many volumes of the private correspondence. It is known that a portion of Gondomar's books, &c., were removed from the Casa del Sol, and deposited in the private library of Charles IV., now forming part of that in the Royal Palace at Madrid, and a careful search may yet produce some result. In the meantime here are Prince Charles's two letters, which may be of interest to some of your wide circle of readers.

F. W. COZENS.

27, Queen's Road, Feb. 19, 1872.

"Gondomar: I doe heerby verrie willinglie establis . . . your according to the desyer of your letter, in that honorable office, of my principall Alcahuete, & for prooffe thereof I must now pray you in earnest to retorne my humble and hartie thanks to my Mistres for her kynde & louing message sent me by Cottington who I hope shall proue a faithfull seruant to us both, I leue it to this bearer my seruant to informe you hou thankefullie both the Kinge my father & I takes you honnest & diligent endeouirs in this greate busin . . . which praing God to prosper I bed you hartilie farwell & rest,

"Your constant frende

"CHARLES, P.

"In the address: To the Count of Gondomar my principall Alcahuete."

"Gondomar my frend: I have seene Buckinghams Letter to you all in English, I know no reason why I should not use the same freedome since I loue you as will Wee are forced to take our ease by wryting short letters in regard of the great pains we take in howrlie fygthing for you, for my Mistres sake whom if I shall be so happie as to obtaine, I shall thinke my selfe largelie rewarded for all my labors which I wryt not for formalities sake, but doe indeede fynd my selfe ingaged both in honor & affection; but if you wonder how I can loue before I see; the troth is, I have both seene her picture and hard the report of her verteus by a number whom I trust, so as her Idea is ingrauen in my hart wher I hope to preserue it till I enioie the principall: all particulars I refer to the King my Fathers directions, & to the trust of the bearer my seruant, onlie I pray you not to looke now so much to the bonum publicum which the Pope so earnestlie *preases* to be added but rather to looke

backe & consider how much we have alredie granted and to remember that ye euer promised that the King father should be no farder *preaced* in matters of religion, them his owen weal & good reason might perswad him though ther wer no matche & upon the other side to consider what malum publicum must of necessitie enfer upon our Roman Catholiques if my matche should be broken ofe (which God forbid) upon thease now nyce points. And so God blesse you and all your labours.

"Your faithfull frend

"CHARLES, P."

"Cartas y Provisiones Reales," in-fol. Bibl. de Palacio-Madrid; Sal. 2^a; Est. C.—pl.—8.

MISCELLANEA.

PAROCHIAL REGISTERS.—The Rev. Thomas Hugo, rector of West Hackney, with reference to a letter by "Oxonienis," in the *Times*, writes to that journal that it was not "Parochial Registers," but "Records denominated Bishops' Registers," for which a place of safe custody was intended in Lord Shaftesbury's Bill. These "Bishops' Registers" are MS. volumes, which contain the various acts of our Bishops, diocesan affairs in general, institutions to benefices, matters connected with religious houses, &c., from the 13th century downwards. They are, in fact, the key to our ecclesiastical history for many hundred years. Mr. Hugo remarks, that it is high time these invaluable records should be deposited in a central institution, where they will be sure of careful custody, and where literary inquirers will be as sure of easy access. Their transfer to the safe keeping of the Record Office will, he adds, be hailed with the liveliest satisfaction by every ecclesiastical antiquarian in England.

IN 1596, the Dutch explorers in Nova Zembla constructed a small wooden hut. Captain Carslen, in a fishing expedition, during the 9th of September and the 4th of November last, made the tour of Nova Zembla, during which he discovered this house fallen to ruins and completely covered with ice. In it he found 150 objects of interest; amongst other things, books which, after nearly 300 years, are in a good state of preservation. The collection is placed in the museum of Amsterdam.

AN HISTORICAL BUILDING.—A considerable part of the more ancient portion of Invercauld House is being pulled down in order to make room for the erection of a new wing. The plan of the projected extension is intended to be in better harmony with the other architectural features of the mansion than the old portions in course of demolition. Among these are the apartments which were occupied by the Earl of Mar, and from which he issued his famous letters in 1715, relative to the Jacobite rebellion, a few days prior to the unfurling of the royal standard at Castleton of Braemar.

THE Corporation of Sheffield have purchased a plot of land for 9210*l.*, whereon to erect a public museum and free library.

THE office of York Herald, vacant by the death of Mr. Thomas W. King, has been conferred upon Mr. John von Sonnentag de Havilland, Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. PERRY.—The letter on "Signboards" in our next.

J. JEREMIAH.—"Stonehenge Lore," "Avebury," &c., postponed for want of space.

W. G. FRETTON.—Your article is partly in type, and will duly appear.

F. E. S.—Deferred to next issue.

INTERESTING Reports of the Manchester Numismatic Society, and of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society are unavoidably omitted.

IN reply to many very encouraging letters, we may announce that the *Antiquary* will be published weekly at 3*d.* at an early period, and beg our supporters to make the publication known as widely as possible.